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09/670,722	09/28/2000	Hideyuki Narusawa	Q60773	7046

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EXAMINER	
PARK, CHAN S	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2622	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/670,722	Applicant(s) NARUSAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner CHAN S PARK	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *30 April 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *7-11,13-28 and 30-44* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *7-11,13-28 and 30-44* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *7,9,13 and 14* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment was received on4/30/04, and has been entered and made of record. Currently, **claims 7-11, 13-28 and 30-44** are pending.

Drawings

2. The corrected or substitute drawings were received on 4/30/04. These drawings are acceptable.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments, see page 18, filed 4/30/04, with respect to objection of the Specification have been fully considered and are persuasive. The objection of the Specification has been withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments filed 4/30/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

4. In response to applicant's arguments regarding the rejection of **claim 13**, wherein on pages 19 and 20, the applicant explains how Sekikawa teaches only one reading part 112 and thus fails to teach a control part which manages the number of reading parts. Examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicant. Referring to fig. 1, scanner part 110 has a controller (control part 111) for controlling a number of reading parts. Sekikawa clearly teaches that the controller controls both card connector 118 and reading part 112 for acquiring the image data (col. 3, line 67 - col. 4, line 7 & col. 4, lines

44-54). Thus, Examiner's initial rejections with respect to **claims 13 and 15-18** are maintained.

5. In response to applicant's arguments regarding the rejection of **claim 26**, wherein on pages 20-22, the applicant explains how Sekikawa fails to teach the applicant's dual-use mode permitting reading of image data from a storage medium and writing of image data onto the storage medium. The applicant further supports the arguments by alleging that Sekikawa only teaches the memory card being in a write mode or a read mode. Examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicant. Referring to col. 20, lines 59-63, when card is inserted on both the input side and the output side and a copying job is performed, the image data obtained through the copying job are stored/written in the memory card and then read to be printed. Thus, Sekikawa clearly teaches the dual-use mode of reading from and writing onto the storage medium as recited in claim 26 The rejections with respect to **claims 26-28** are maintained.

6. In response to applicant's arguments regarding the rejection of **claim 32**, the limitation of managing a number of data acquiring devices and a number of printing device is similar to the limitation presented in claim 13. Thus, the rejection with respect to claim 32 is maintained.

7. Applicant's arguments, see pages 24-29, filed 4/30/04, with respect to the rejections of **claims 7-11, 14, 19-25, 30, 31 and 33** under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn.

However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Sekikawa in view of Humpleman et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,546,419.

Claim Objections

8. Claim 7 is objected to because of the following informalities: perhaps "a computer" in line 5 should be "the computer". Appropriate correction is required.

9. Claim 9 is objected to because of the following informalities: perhaps "a computer" should be "the computer". Appropriate correction is required.

10. Claim 13 is objected to because of the following informalities: perhaps "said data printing device" in the last line, should be "said printing device". Appropriate correction is required.

11. Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities: the last two lines of the first paragraph is repeated in the amendment. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

12. Claims 13 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claims recite that "said data acquiring device

control section manages the number of said data acquiring device and other data acquiring devices connected thereto". However, according to pages 9 and 10 of the Specification, the data acquiring device control section only manages one data acquiring device (PC memory card). There are no "other data acquiring devices" shown or disclosed. Additionally, Applicant claims that "said print image data generating section manages the number of said data printing device and other printing devices connected thereto". However, according to pages 9 and 10 of the Specification, the print image data generating section only manages one printing device (print section 55). There are no "other printing devices" shown or disclosed.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

13. Claim 13 recites the limitations "the number of said data acquiring device" and "the number of said data printing device" in last two paragraphs. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

14. Claim 40 recites the limitations "the other acquiring device identification information" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 13, 17, 18, 26-28, 32, 39, 43 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sekikawa U.S. Patent No. 6,498,658.

15. With respect to claim 13, Sekikawa discloses a computer (control part 111) to which a multifunction printer (digital copier in fig. 1) holding a data acquiring device (card connector 118 or reading part 112) for acquiring image data and a printing device for printing the image data in a common housing (fig. 1 & col. 3, lines 36-39), and capable of recognizing said data acquiring device and said printing device independently (the panel in fig. 13 shows that the memory card and the scanner are distinctly independent), comprising:

a data acquiring device control section (control part 111) for controlling said data acquiring device and for acquiring original image data from said data acquiring device;

a print image data generating section (printer part 120) for acquiring and processing said original image data from said data acquiring device control section, and for generating print image data which said printing device can print; and

a printing device control section (controller 123) for controlling said printing device, then acquiring said print image data from said print image data generating section and transmitting said print image data to said printing device,

wherein said print image data generating section does not manage the number of said and other data acquiring devices, but said data acquiring device control section (control part 111) manages the number of said and other data acquiring devices connected thereto (col. 3, line 60 – col. 4, line 7), and

wherein said printing device control section does not manage the number of said and other printing devices, but said print image data generating section manages the number of said and other printing devices (devices connected over the network 140) connected thereto (col. 4, lines 61-67).

See the detailed description of fig. 1 in col. 3-5.

16. With respect to claim 17, Sekikawa discloses the computer according to claim 13, wherein said data acquiring device is a storage medium read-out device capable of removably setting a storage medium storing said original image data (removable memory card in col. 3, line 64), and said original image data is acquired by reading said storage medium (col. 4, lines 49-54).

17. With respect to claim 18, Sekikawa discloses the computer according to claim 13, wherein said data acquiring device is an optical image read-out device that optically reads paper representing an original image, and said original image data is acquired by optically reading paper representing said original image (col. 4, lines 8-10).

18. With respect to claim 26, Sekikawa discloses a computer to which a multifunction printer is connected, said multifunction printer holding a storage medium read/write

device for reading image data from a storage medium and writing image data on said storage medium and a printing device for printing the image data in a common housing, said computer being capable of recognizing said data acquiring device (card connector 118) and said printing device (printer 120) independently, comprising:

a storage medium read/write device control section that controls said storage medium read/write and acquires original image data from said storage medium read/write device, said storage medium read/write device control section having a dual-use mode (col. 20, lines 59-63) permitting reading of image data from said storage medium and writing of image data onto said storage medium and a read-only mode (fig. 13) permitting only reading of image data from said storage medium;

a print image data generating section (printer part 120) that acquires said original image data from said storage medium read/write device control section, and generates print image data that can be printed by said printing device by executing image processing of said image data (col. 20, lines 59-63); and

a printing device control section (controller 123) that controls said printing device, and acquires said print image data from said print image data generating section and transmits said print image data to said printing device (col. 20, lines 59-63).

19. With respect to claim 27, Sekikawa discloses the computer further comprising a switching section (the panel in conjunction with the control part 111) that switches said dual-use mode and said read-only mode in said storage medium read/write device control section (figs. 13, 19, and 28).

20. With respect to claim 28, Sekikawa discloses the computer further comprising:

a storage medium loading information acquiring section that acquires, from said storage medium read/write device, storage medium loading information about whether said storage medium has been set or not (col. 18, lines 19-26); and

a prohibiting section that judges form said storage medium loading information whether said storage medium has been set or not, and prohibits a change between said dual-mode and said read-only mode in said switching section when said storage medium has been set (col. 18, lines 19-26).

It is inherent that when there is no memory card detected in the input part of the card connector, the control part 111 prohibits a change to the dual-mode since there is no reading means.

21. With respect to claim 32, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 13, are applicable.

22. With respect to claim 39, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 13, are applicable.

23. With respect to claim 43, Sekikawa discloses the computer according to claim 39, wherein one of the data acquiring devices is a storage medium read-out device (removable memory card in col. 3, line 64) adapted to set a storage medium for storing the original image data (col. 4, lines 49-54).

24. With respect to claim 44, Sekikawa discloses the computer according to claim 39, wherein one of the data acquiring devices is an optical image read-out device adapted to optically read paper representing an original image (col. 4, lines 8-10).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 7-11, 19-25, 30, 31, 33, 35-38 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekikawa U.S. Patent No. 6,498,658 in view of Humpleman et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,546,419 (hereinafter Humpleman).

25. With respect to claim 7, Sekikawa discloses a multifunctional printer comprising:

a data acquiring device (card connector 118 or reading part 112) for acquiring original image data (col. 4, lines 49-54) and being recognizable as an independent device by a computer (control part 111) to which said data acquiring device is connected (serial I/F 116 & 116 and also the panel in fig. 13 shows that a memory card is distinctly independent from a scanner); and

a printing device for printing print image data generated by image processing of said original image data and being recognizable as an independent device (separate parallel connection I/F 125 & 137) by a computer to which said printing machine is connected (col. 12, line 65 – col. 13, line10),

wherein said data acquiring device and said printing device being held in a common housing (fig. 1 & col. 3, lines 36-39).

Sekikawa does not disclose expressly that said data acquiring device and said printing device hold identification information indicating that said data acquiring device and said printing device are held in said common housing.

Humpleman discloses a client device connected to a network for obtaining selection information for *individual network devices* including manufacturer's name, name of product, network address, and location of the devices (fig. 11 & col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 40). Thus, by looking at the DeviceLocation value, the client can identify where a particular device is located and determine whether the device is in a common housing (livingroom) with other devices.

Sekikawa and Humpleman are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor that is the network communication art between a client and other network devices.

Since Sekikawa recognizes the printing device and the data acquiring device as individual devices, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the device information table of Humpleman into the printing device and the data acquiring device of Sekikawa.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to uniquely identify and distinguish the location and the manufacture information for each device.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Sekikawa and Humpleman to obtain the invention as specified in claim 7.

26. With respect to claim 8, Humpleman discloses that each device holds a common serial number used as said identification information (col. 10, lines 35-40). In other work, if any of the network devices were held in a common housing (Livingroom), it would have a common DeviceLocation value (Livingroom). Additionally, Humpleman discloses a DeviceAddress value (105.144.30.37) for network address for each device. It is well known to one of ordinary skill in the art that devices with same location in the

network have common address (such as having same first six digit 105.144 in line 40). Thus, Humpleman discloses the limitation as specified in claim 8.

27. With respect to claim 9, Humpleman discloses the devices that transmit said identification information to a computer in response to a request therefrom (col. 10, lines 59-63). Note that the identification information of any network devices connected to the network can be transmitted to the computer in response to a request therefrom.

28. With respect to claim 10, Sekikawa discloses the printer wherein said data acquiring device is a storage medium read-out device capable of removably setting a storage medium storing said original image data (removable memory card in col. 3, line 64), and said original image data is acquired by reading said storage medium (col. 4, lines 49-54).

29. With respect to claim 11, Sekikawa discloses the printer wherein said data acquiring device is an optical image read-out device that optically reads paper representing an original image, and said original image data is acquired by optically reading paper representing said original image (col. 4, lines 8-10).

30. With respect to claim 19, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 7, are applicable. Also, see arguments presented for claim 14.

31. With respect to claim 20, Humpleman further discloses a first notifying section that gives a notice to a user when any two devices are not held in the common housing. It is inherent since user is notified with the location of each device.

32. With respect to claim 21, Humpleman further discloses a second notifying section that gives a notice to a user when any two devices are held in the common housing. It is inherent since user is notified with the location of each device.

33. With respect to claim 22, Sekikawa teaches the method of sending commands from the host to the printer for printing print job (col. 5, lines 26-28). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select the printing device for printing the image data even when the data acquiring device and the printing device are not held in the common housing.

34. With respect to claim 23, Sekikawa discloses that said data acquiring device is a storage medium read-out device capable of removably setting a storage medium storing said original image data (removable memory card in col. 3, line 64), and said original image data is acquired by reading said storage medium (col. 4, lines 49-54).

35. With respect to claim 24, Sekikawa discloses a storing medium loading information acquiring section (control part 111) that acquires, from said storage medium read-out device, storage medium loading information about whether said storage medium has been set or not (col. 20, lines 59-64), and

a third notifying section (panel in fig. 13) that judges from said storage medium loading information whether said storage medium has been set or not, and gives a notice to a user when said storage medium has not been set.

36. With respect to claim 25, Sekikawa discloses that said data acquiring device is an optical image read-out device that optically reads paper representing an original image, and said original image data is acquired by optically reading paper representing said original image (col. 4, lines 8-10).

37. With respect to claim 30, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 7, are applicable.

38. With respect to claim 31, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 8, are applicable.

39. With respect to claim 33, arguments analogous to those presented for claims 7 and 19, are applicable.

40. With respect to claim 35, Sekikawa discloses all the limitations of the multifunction printer as recited in claim 7. Sekikawa further discloses the method of compression/expansion processing of image data or dots (col. 4, lines 3-7 & col. 17, lines 36-37) wherein when the compression processing is performed, the number of values of said print image data is inherently less than that of said original image data.

Sekikawa does not disclose expressly that said original image data is expressed by multi-value data representing a plurality of tones for each pixel, and said print image data is expressed by multi-value data for each pixel.

However, Examiner takes Official Notice that using multi-value data (binarization of image data in col. 4, line 6) representing plurality of tones or grey scale for each pixel to express the original image data is commonly used and well known method in the printing art.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to express original image data by multi-value data representing a plurality of tones for each pixel in order to bring different grey scale level for each pixel to represent the image.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to obtain the invention as specified in claim 35.

41. With respect to claim 36, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 9, are applicable.

42. With respect to claim 37, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 10, are applicable.

43. With respect to claim 38, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 11, are applicable.

44. With respect to claim 40, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 9, are applicable.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekikawa as applied to claim 13 above, and further in view of Humpleman.

45. With respect to claim 14, Sekikawa discloses the computer according to claim 13, but fails to disclose the identification information for the data acquiring device and the printing device.

As noted above in claim 7, Humpleman discloses a client device connected to a network for obtaining selection information for *individual network devices* including manufacturer's name, name of product, and location of the devices (fig. 11 & col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 40). Thus, by looking at the information value, the client can easily identify a particular device from other devices.

Sekikawa and Humpleman are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor that is the network communication art between a client and other network devices.

Since Sekikawa recognizes the printing device and the data acquiring device as individual devices, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the device information table of Humpleman into the printing device and the data acquiring device of Sekikawa.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to uniquely identify and distinguish the location and the manufacture information for each device.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Sekikawa and Humpleman to obtain the invention as specified in claim 14.

Claims 15 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekikawa as applied to claim 13 above, and further in view of Silverbrook U.S. Patent No. 6,134,021.

46. With respect to claim 15, Sekikawa discloses all the limitations of the computer as cited in claim 13.

Sekikawa does not disclose expressly that the printer is a color printer wherein said original image data is RGB-based data, and said print image data is YMC-based data.

Silverbrook, on the other hand, discloses a color copier including a memory card slot for storing input object image data (col. 3, line 61 – col. 4, line 12), a host computer, and a real-time processor for outputting the image data (col. 1, lines 37-45). It further discloses a color printer wherein said original image data is RGB-based data, and said print image data is YMC-based data (col. 7, lines 44-53).

Sekikawa and Silverbrook are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor, which is the printing art.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the multifunction printer of Sekikawa with the color copier of Silverbrook.

The suggestion for doing so would have been to utilize the memory card for a color copier.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Sekikawa with Silverbrook to obtain the invention as specified in claim 15.

47. With respect to claim 41, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 15, are applicable.

Claims 16 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekikawa.

48. With respect to claim 16, Sekikawa discloses all the limitations of the computer as recited in claim 13. Sekikawa further discloses the method of compression/expansion processing of image data or dots (col. 4, lines 3-7 & col. 17, lines 36-37) wherein when the compression processing is performed, the number of values of said print image data is inherently less than that of said original image data.

Sekikawa does not disclose expressly that said original image data is expressed by multi-value data representing a plurality of tones for each pixel, and said print image data is expressed by multi-value data for each pixel.

However, Examiner takes Official Notice that using multi-value data (binarization of image data in col. 4, line 6) representing plurality of tones or grey scale for each pixel to express the original image data is commonly used and well known method in the printing art.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to express original image data by multi-value data representing a plurality of tones for each pixel in order to bring different grey scale level for each pixel to represent the image.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to obtain the invention as specified in claim 16.

49. With respect to claim 42, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 16, are applicable.

Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Sekikawa and Humpleman as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Silverbrook.

50. With respect to claim 34, the combination of Sekikawa and Humpleman disclose all the limitations of the computer as cited in claim 7.

The combination does not disclose expressly that the printer is a color printer wherein said original image data is RGB-based data, and said print image data is YMC-based data.

Silverbrook, on the other hand, discloses a color copier including a memory card slot for storing input object image data (col. 3, line 61 – col. 4, line 12), a host computer,

and a real-time processor for outputting the image data (col. 1, lines 37-45). It further discloses a color printer wherein said original image data is RGB-based data, and said print image data is YMC-based data (col. 7, lines 44-53).

Sekikawa and Silverbrook are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor, which is the printing art.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the multifunction printer of Sekikawa with the color copier of Silverbrook.

The suggestion for doing so would have been to utilize the memory card for a color copier.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Sekikawa with Silverbrook to obtain the invention as specified in claim 34.

Conclusion

51. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHAN S PARK whose telephone number is (703) 305-2448. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Chan S. Park
Examiner
Art Unit 2622

csp
July 21, 2004

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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600